

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

**the United States Agency for International Development**

and

**the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office**

### **Purpose**

1. Sub-Saharan Africa (“SSA”) accounts for three quarters of people globally who do not have access to electricity. This lack of access to electricity limits access to quality health care, education, job creation and economic opportunities for approximately 568 million people. Africa has an abundant renewable energy potential to close the energy gap with affordable renewable energy sources to promote low carbon growth, and to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 7 and 13.
2. The United States Agency for International Development (“USAID”), through the Power Africa Coordinator’s Office, and the Government of the United Kingdom’s (“UK”) Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (“the FCDO”) (USAID and the FCDO each a “Participant” and together the “Participants”) seek to contribute their respective strengths, expertise and resources to support one another’s efforts to (1) catalyze the sustainable development of power sectors across SSA, (2) increase the bankability of power transactions in SSA, and (3) ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all in SSA. By working together, the Participants hope to extend the impact and increase the efficiency of their programs and thus achieve more scalable development outcomes, including progress towards SDGs 7 and 13.
3. The primary intention of the cooperation between the Participants is to deepen collaboration in order to bring additional sustainable, clean power projects to financial close, support the expansion of off-grid electricity provision, and increase energy access for all, with the goal of reducing energy poverty and promoting low-carbon economic growth in SSA. This Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) articulates some of the commonalities between the Participants’ objectives and approaches and establishes a basis for ongoing dialogue and cooperation between the Participants.

## Participants

4. The United States Government (“USG”) launched the Power Africa Initiative, coordinated by USAID, in June 2013 to leverage private and public sector partnerships to double access to electricity in SSA. The United States Congress later passed the Electrify Africa Act of 2015, signaling to the global community that expanding electricity access in SSA is a long-term bipartisan foreign policy priority of the USG. Power Africa, comprised of 12 USG agencies and more than 250 private and public sector partners, aims to add at least 30,000 megawatts (MW) of new and clean electrical power capacity and 60 million electrical connections across SSA by 2030. Under Power Africa’s 2.0 Strategy, the initiative has also adopted transmission targets, including the installation of 5,000 kilometers (km) of new transmission lines and mobilization of USD \$3 billion in support of transmission projects.
5. The UK government supports renewable energy in Africa as part of its International Development Strategy (2022) and an £11.6 billion commitment to International Climate Finance, including clean energy, from 2021 to 2026. The FCDO leads the UK’s international development work overseas, coordinating also with the UK Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), and other departments. Current renewable energy and energy access programmes led by the FCDO include Transforming Energy Access (TEA) the UK’s support to the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA) and the Sustainable Renewables Risk Mitigation Initiative (SRMI) under Africa Regional Climate and Nature (ARCAN), Renewable Energy Performance Platform (REPP) and the Green Cities and Infrastructure Programme (GCIP). The Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG), and British International Investments (BII) are further UK-funded instruments with significant clean energy investments in Africa.
6. Through these efforts and under a previous MOU signed in 2015, both Participants are working with public and private sector partners to reduce energy poverty and facilitate low carbon growth, as well as to meet the goals of SDG 7 and 13 and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Their future collaboration will take place through follow up actions in support of these agreements and within the context of the annual UN Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Participants, along with other G7 partners, launched the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGI) in 2022, a values-driven, high-impact, and transparent partnership to help meet the infrastructure needs of low- and middle-income countries. Africa is a priority region for PGI, and Power Africa has helped facilitate PGI’s regional infrastructure and development goals in the energy sector.

## Goals and Objectives

7. Through coordination and collaboration at the headquarters, regional and national levels, the Participants intend to pursue the following seven joint strategic goals and objectives under this MOU:
  - i) **Support a just and inclusive energy transition by mobilizing investment in sub-Saharan Africa's energy sector:** The Participants intend to collaborate in leveraging public, institutional and private investments to achieve SDG 7 and 13. Through the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) in South Africa, the Energy Transition Council, and respective programmes, the Participants intend to mobilize political will and ambition, share information, and facilitate risk mitigation and climate finance to develop and scale up renewable energy generation projects in SSA including solar, wind, hydropower, green hydrogen, and geothermal. As part of an inclusive transition, the Participants expect to support women's empowerment in the clean energy sector by collaborating on efforts to increase participation and leadership.
  - ii) **Expand off-grid renewable energy solutions to extend energy access and promote energy efficient appliances:** The Participants intend to continue supporting the expansion of access to affordable, reliable and modern electricity through off-grid renewable energy solutions (including solar home systems and green mini-grids) in order to achieve improved economic activity, sustainable livelihoods and provision of essential services, such as education, agriculture, water, and healthcare. Through the Efficiency for Access Coalition and other initiatives, the Participants will also collaborate on energy efficiency interventions, such as clean-cooking, to ensure inclusive and affordable appliances, as well as addressing the growing issue of e-waste from renewable energy products.
  - iii) **Support smart green grids to enable the integration of variable renewable energy through new and innovative investment:** Recognizing the importance of expanding and modernizing networks and regional trading opportunities to SSA's energy sector, the Participants continue their collaboration through a range of interventions, such as the Green Grids Initiative and funds such as the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA), as well as to coordinate use of their respective resources to advance investment in smart green grids and transmission and distribution projects.
  - iv) **Support innovative solutions in energy access for displaced populations:** The Participants intend to coordinate efforts to advance innovative new technology and partnership solutions to transform private sector engagement in the humanitarian context, particularly within camps which often rely on diesel generators for power. This could include aligning support to respective energy access and humanitarian programmes, to enable innovative, sustainable approaches to the delivery of services

and technology, creating economic opportunities for displaced populations and the communities that host them.

- v) **Collaborate to support the development of emerging technologies:** The Participants intend to collaboratively advance shared objectives relating to the research, development, pilot testing and commercialization of emerging technologies that enable energy access and promote decarbonization. These emerging technologies include battery energy storage solutions (BESSs), next generation solar technologies like perovskite, and green hydrogen. USAID and the FCDO intend to work with SSA host governments and other partners, such as the World Bank, to increase investment in these technologies, and assist in the establishment of innovation competitions and challenge funds.
- vi) **Support the electrification of rural healthcare facilities:** The Participants intend to support initiatives that increase the electrification of healthcare facilities in Africa, with renewable energy, to improve and expand the range and quality of health services offered in rural areas. Through the SE4All Powering Healthcare initiative and the joint Health and Energy Platform of Action (HEPA), as well as collaboration with partners in the health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and energy sectors and national governments, the Participants intend to support projects such as green mini-grids, results-based financing facilities, and energy efficient medical appliances.
- vii) **Drive diversification in global supply chains for clean energy technology:** USAID and the FCDO intend, in the framework of this MOU, to jointly advance supply chain diversification and deployment to build a more resilient and sustainable clean energy ecosystem.

The seven areas of coordination and collaboration listed above are illustrative. The Participants intend to mutually agree on specific activities, which are not intended to be limited to the areas listed above, through a light touch coordination and reporting plan to be agreed following the signing of this MoU. Where applicable, the Participants intend to coordinate their resources in support of the energy programs and projects they have agreed to prioritize through this collaboration.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

8. Under this MOU, the Participants specifically intend to accomplish the following:
  - Provide technical and financial assistance to substantially increase access to clean electricity, expand renewable generation and improve energy efficiency in sub-

Saharan Africa in accordance with SDG 7 and 13 and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

- Facilitate partnerships with public and private sector actors to mobilize investment and promote enabling environment reforms for renewable energy projects, including transmission and distribution.
- Facilitate collaboration with interagency/cross-government counterparts and public and private sector partners on SSA energy projects, to make support instruments more visible and coordinated and to share market and regulatory information, as appropriate.
- Cooperate to promote women's participation and leadership within the energy sector as well as access to electricity through existing and new programs.
- Work together on sectoral analysis and new and innovative approaches to expand private sector investment to unlock sub-Saharan Africa wind, solar, hydropower, green hydrogen, and geothermal resources.

### **Implementation**

9. The above lists of Roles and Responsibilities are illustrative and may be altered as mutually agreed. Where applicable, each Participant intends to mobilize and deploy its suite of resources in support of the projects they jointly agree to prioritize through this collaboration.

### **Publicity and Communications**

10. Public communications related to this MOU should appropriately attribute the efforts of both Participants, in each case subject to their consent.

Joint branding may be used with the written consent of each Participant. Each Participant may make its logo available for use on specific materials at its sole discretion. Each Participant should obtain written approval prior to the publication of all information and materials that contain the other's logo. The Participants expect that any such materials give equal prominence to both Participants' logos.

The Participants intend to respect each other's policies on confidentiality and disclosure of information, with the mutual understanding that the publication of information on activities arising from the MOU does not itself disclose any confidential or proprietary information of the other.

Each Participant may make the existence and content of this MOU publicly available by press release, public commentary, or other disclosure, in accordance with their policies or

procedures regarding the public disclosure of information, subject to the prior written consent of the other.

### **Reporting and Collaboration**

11. The Participants at a minimum intended to communicate via quarterly telephone calls between the Points of Contact identified below or their designees, and annual executive meetings. The participants aim to review progress made under the seven areas of the MoU on an annual basis.
12. The Participants expect that joint efforts in many locations may necessitate working-level contact and intend that the Points of Contact at headquarters facilitate establishing regional- and country-level Points of Contact, as needed to coordinate implementation under this MOU.
13. In addition, the participants intend to coordinate the exchange of relevant data and information through ad hoc communications with FCDO, BII, and PIDG focal points as needed. Power Africa's Development Partnerships Team plans to invite the FCDO to participate in an annual data verification event so that information on UK-supported power projects can be included in Power Africa's database. The Development Partnerships Team will give UK branding prominence in the Power Africa Annual Report if any UK funded results are included.

### **General Provisions**

14. **Duration:** This MOU is expected to continue for five (5) years from the date of signature and may be extended in writing. The Participants may renew or extend it by mutual written agreement. It is understood that either Participant may withdraw from this MOU at any time, but should endeavor to provide thirty (30) days prior written notice to the other Participant.
15. **Modifications:** It is intended that the Participants may modify this MOU only in writing, signed by both Participants.
16. **Effect of MOU:** This MOU is not a treaty and does not give rise to rights or obligations under international law. The Participants specifically acknowledge that this MOU is not an obligation of funds, nor does it constitute a legally binding commitment by any Participant or create any rights in any third party. The Participants intend to maintain their own separate and unique missions and mandates and their own accountabilities. The

cooperation among the Participants as outlined in this MOU is not a legally binding partnership or other type of legal entity or personality. All costs and expenses incurred in connection with this MOU are intended to be the responsibility of the Participant that incurs them. Nothing in this MOU is intended to be construed as superseding or interfering in any way with any agreements or contracts entered into among the Participants, either prior to or subsequent to the signing of this MOU. Nothing in this MOU is intended to be construed as an exclusive working relationship.

### **Points of Contact**

17. The Participants intend to join efforts and to maintain a close working relationship in order to achieve the objectives of this collaboration. USAID and the FCDO have each designated a point of contact for the partnership, listed below. The Participants intend to inform their relevant personnel and, in the case of Power Africa, its interagency counterparts, of this joint commitment to collaborate between USAID and the FCDO.
18. The primary Points of Contact for each Participant under this MOU appear below. Each Participant may, by written notice, replace or identify additional representatives.

#### USAID

Contact Person: Chris Foley  
USAID  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20523

#### FCDO

Contact Person: Matthew Rees  
Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office  
King Charles Street  
London, UK SW1A 2AH

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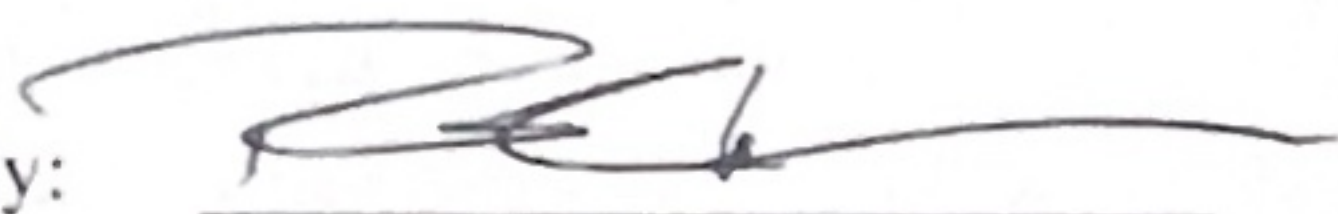
The Participants, each acting through its duly authorized representative, have caused this Memorandum of Understanding to be signed in their names and delivered as of this    /    day of July, 2024.

Signed:

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR  
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

UNITED KINGDOM FOREIGN,  
COMMONWEALTH AND  
DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

By:



(Signature)

Power Africa Coordinator

By:



(Signature)

Kate Fosica

AFMCA Director.